

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 RABAT 03799 241023Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 SS-15 H-02 INR-10 /044 W
-----038311 241807Z /42

R 240955Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5887

UNCLAS RABAT 3799

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, MO
SUBJECT: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL INQUIRY CONCERNING SAID ASGHEN

REF: STATE 158342

1. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY FILES, SAID ASGHEN WAS AMONG 139 SO-CALLED "FRONTISTES" (EXTREME LEFTISTS) CONVICTED IN FEBRUARY 1977 OF PLOTTING AGAINST THE REGIME. ASGHEN WAS SENTENCED TO TWENTY YEARS IN PRISON AND HAS NOT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, BEEN INCLUDED IN ANY OF THE SUBSEQUENT AMNESTIES. CHARGES AGAINST INDIVIDUALS WERE NOT PUBLICIZED BUT THE GROUP WAS ACCUSED OF:

- CREATING SECRET ORGANIZATIONS,
- AGGRESSION AGAINST THE REGIME AND PLOTTING TO DESTROY IT,
- DISTRIBUTING POLITICAL TRACTS AIMED AT INCITING DISORDER, AND
- ATTEMPTING TO ISOLATE THE SAHARA FROM THE MOTHER COUNTRY.

2. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON ASGHEN'S BACKGROUND, DATE OF ARREST, OR WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD, HOWEVER, MANY OF THOSE TRIED WITH HIM IN 1977 HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN IN CUSTODY FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND MOST--BUT NOT ALL--OF THE 139 CONVICTED ARE CURRENTLY SERVING THEIR SENTENCES IN KENITRA PRISON. THE GROUP IS HIGHLY POLITICIZED AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE STAGED HUNGER STRIKES ON A NUMBER OF

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 RABAT 03799 241023Z

OCCASIONS SINCE THEIR CONVICTION. SEE RABAT A-3 1977 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FEBRUARY TRIALS. ANDERSON

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Message Attributes

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